

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF SUNDAY, DEC 12

SAIPAN FOR STATUS LNO
TOKYO FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION CODEL DUNCAN

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM FRONT PAGE WASHINGTON POST
ARTICLE BY BOB WOODWARD PUBLISHED 12 DEC HEADLINED: "CIA
BUGGING MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATIONS":

"THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS REGULARLY BEEN CON-
DUCTING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AGAINST REPRESENTA-IVES OF
THIS COUNTRY'S LAST COLONY-THE PACIFIC ISLAND GROUP OF
MICRONESIA, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES.

"THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE HAS BEEN USED IN THE LAST FOUR
YEARS TO LEARN THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION IN
TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES OVER THE FUTURE STATUS AND
PERHAPS EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE GROUP OF 2,200 STRATE-
GICALLY PLACED ISLANDS, WHICH INCLUDE THE MARIANAS, CARO-
LINES AND MARSHALLS.

"UNDER A UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP CREATED AFTER WORLD
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WAR II, THE UNITED STATES, AS COLONIAL ADMINISTRATOR, HAS GOVERNED THE ISLANDS WHILE BEING FORMALLY COMMITTED TO PROMOTING FUTURE 'SELF-GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE'.

"THE CIA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE CURRENTLY LOCKED IN A SENSITIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES DISPUTE OVER THE LEGALITY AND PROPRIETY OF THE SURVEILLANCE, WHICH IS A REALATIVELY SMALL CIA OPERATION INVOLVING ONE OR TWO PHONE TAPS AND ROOM BUGS IN MICRONESIA....

"THE STATE DEPARTMENT THIS SUMMER FILED AN OBJECTION WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, ARGUING THAT THE SURVEILLANCE IS IMPROPER, IN PART BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS IN EFFECT NEGOTIATING WITH THE MICRONESIANS TO BECOME U.S. CITIZENS.

"CIA SURVEILLANCE OF U.S. CITIZENS IS PROHIBITED BY THE CIA CHARTER. THE CIA CONTENDS THAT MICRONESIANS ARE STILL FOREIGNERS AND THAT IT IS THE PROPER ROLE OF THE CIA TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ABROAD.

"ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, THE CIA APPARENTLY WANTS TO CONTINUE THE SURVEILLANCE IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATING SESSIONS.

"THE SOURCES SAID U.S. NEGOTIATORS HAVE RECEIVED REGULAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THE MICRONESIAN POSITION, BUT APPARENTLY WERE NOT INFORMED THAT THE INFORMATION WAS COMING FROM ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. THIS IS A STANDARD PRACTICE TO GIVE NEGOTIATORS DENIABILITY....

"JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCES VOICES SOME DISMAY THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD NOT AS A MATTER OF POLICY ORDERED THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE HALTED....

"SINCE LAST SPRING'S NEGOTIATING SESSION, THE MICRONESIANS HAVE TAKEN A HARDER LINE AND SEEK FULL INDEPENDENCE SOONER, WHILE THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT TO DISSOLVE THE TRUSTEESHIP MORE GRADUALLY. UNDER AN ARRANGEMENT CALLED 'FREE ASSOCIATION,' THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO MANAGE THE ISLANDS' FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DEFENSE MATTERS FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER 15 YEARS.

"THE MOST RECENT CIA ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE WAS CONDUCTED IN MAY AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR DURING THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, AND A TEAM OF NINE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATORS

TO SAIPAN, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES.

"WILLIAMS, WHO HAS SINCE RESIGNED, SAID FRIDAY IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE SURVEILLANCE, BUT THAT IT DID NOT SURPRISE HIM.

"THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND ITS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ISLANDS PROVIDED HIM WITH REGULAR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION, WILLIAM SAID. THEY WERE USEFUL, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE MICRONESIANS ARE TOUGH NEGOTIATORS.

"HE ADDED, 'BUT I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY ACTIVITY BY THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE CIA OR ANY OTHER AGENCY TO GATHER INFORMATION COVERTLY OR FROM ANY SURVEILLANCE.'

"NONETHELESS, HE SAID, 'IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME AT ALL THAT THE UNITED STATES IN ANY NEGOTIATION WOULD USE ANY MEANS TO FIND OUT THE POSITION OF THE OTHER SIDE.' HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE PROPRIETY OF SURVEILLANCE....

"ACCORDING TO PHILIP MANHARD, A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO IS ACTING HEAD OF THE U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM, THE MICRONESIANS HAD ASKED THAT THE TALKS RESUME THIS WEEK.

"MANHARD SAID HE WANTED TO DELAY THE SESSION TO JANUARY. 'WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HAVE A BIT MORE CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING AFTER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION COMES IN,' HE SAID.

"OTHER GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID PART OF THE REASON FOR THE DELAY WAS A HOPE FOR A DECISION ON WHETHER THE CIA SURVEILLANCE WOULD CONTINUE.

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"TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEILLANCE, MANHARD EACH TIME SAID, 'I'M JUST NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT'.

"IN MARCH, THE MARIANAS ISLANDS, PART OF THE MICRONESIAN GROUP SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME A U.S. TERRITORY IN 1981. SO THE MARIANAS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION. UNDER AGREEMENT, THE MARIANAS' STATUS WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF GUAM, A U.S. POSSESSION.

"PAUL C. WARNKE, A FORMER SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AND NOW A LAWYER IN PRIVATE PRACTICE HERE, IS THE

LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE MICRONESIANS AND HAS BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

"THERE IS NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT WARNKE WAS A SUBJECT OF THE SURVEILLANCE OR THAT HE WAS AWARE OF IT.

"WARNKE SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE REPORTED SURVEILLANCE WAS 'COMPLETELY IMMORAL, OVERREACHING AND TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF THE OTHER SIDE.' IF THE PURPOSE WAS TO DIVIDE THE MICRONESIANS, IT APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED, HE SAID, NOTING THE SEPARATE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED WITH THE MARIANAS."

2. IN REPLY PRESS QUERY NOON BRIEFING DEC 13 STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID DEPARTMENT DOES NOT NORMALLY COMMENT ON THIS KIND OF STORY.

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